

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 MCT-01

ACDA-10 /080 W

----- 100194

R 201100Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8389

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1971

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, EI

SUBJECT: PROVO INTERVIEW

1. THREE UNIDENTIFIED PROVISIONAL IRA LEADERS, INTERVIEWED
IN THE SUNDAY INDEPENDENT COLUMN WIGMORE, ARE QUOTED IN THE
SEPTEMBER 19TH COLUMN AS ASSERTING THAT THE PROVISIONALS DID
IN FACT ASSASSINATE THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN DUBLIN BECAUSE
HE WAS SENT TO QUOTE COORDINATE BRITISH INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES
IN DUBLIN. END QUOTE. OTHER REASONS GIVEN WERE THAT IT WAS
DONE IN RETALIATION FOR THE QUOTE MURDER END QUOTE OF PETER
CLERY IN CROSMAGLEN AND FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SAS.

2. OTHER POINTS IN THE LENGTHY INTERVIEW:

-- ALTHOUGH HARD HIT BY ARRESTS, THE IRA ORGANIZATION IN
BRITAIN IS READY TO START A NEW CAMPAIGN UNDER THE QUOTE NEW
STRATEGY END QUOTE BUT WILL NOT DO SO UNLESS THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT BREAKS OFF ALL CONTACTS WITH THE IRA.

-- THE ORGANIZATION IS THINKING ABOUT REVISING ITS
STRATEGY OF NON-RECOGNITION OF COURTS IN THE REPUBLIC.
THIS WOULD BE IN RESPONSE TO THE NEW LEGISLATION.

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-- THE PROVOS WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY FORM OF DEVOLVED

GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTH.

-- ONE OF THE INTERVIEWEES ADMITTED THAT THE IRA HAS NO POPULAR MANDATE, "BUT A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT DOES NOT DEPEND ON A POPULAR MANDATE . . . ITS MANDATE COMES FROM THE JUSTICE AND CORRECTNESS OF ITS CAUSE. END QUOTE.

-- THE CURRENT PEACE MOVEMENT IS DISMISSED BECAUSE IT IS SEEKING A QUOTE TRANSIENT AND ILLUSORY PEACE END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO WAY OF JUDGING WHETHER THIS INTERVIEW REPRESENTS AUTHORITATIVE MAIN LINE PROVISIONAL THINKING. THE WIGMORE COLUMN, EDITED BY VINCENT BROWN, HAS HAD SIMILAR INTERVIEWS IN THE PAST AND IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT BROWN HAS GOOD PROVO CONTACTS. IN ANY EVENT, THE UNNAMED PERSONS INTERVIEWED WERE RATHER CHILINGLY ARTICULATE. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF SUCH INTERVIEWS WILL BE PUBLISHED AFTER THE NEW ANTI-TERRORIST LEGISLATION GOES INTO EFFECT. SUCH AN ARTICLE COULD PRESUMABLY MAKE AN EDITOR LIABLE TO PROSECUTION. CURLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, PRESS CONFERENCES, AMBASSADORS, REPRISALS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DUBLIN01971
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760355-0707
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760942/aaaabjxf.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vandyklc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2004 by schaefaj>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by vandyklc>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROVO INTERVIEW
TAGS: PINS, EI, IRA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006